## 3. கவன ஈர்ப்பு.

### மருந்து தயாரிப்புத் தொழிற்சாலைகளில் மின்வெட்டு காரணமாக மருந்து தயாரிப்பு நிறுத்தப்பட்டிருப்பது குறித்து.

THIRU G. SWAMINATHAN : Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Public Health to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the discontinuance of production of medicines in the pharmaceutical factories of the State consequent on 75 per cent power cut and the privation caused to the sick public due to non-availability of drugs.

THE HON. THIRU K. ANBAZHAGAN : Sir, in the latter half of February 1973, some of the Pharmaceutical Industrialists like Messrs. Mount Mettur Pharmaceuticals Limited, Madras and Messrs. Asiatic Oxygen Limited, Madras and Messrs Indian Oxygen, Madras represented that they had been seriosuly affected by the imposition of the present power cut, and that the industry had been facing much difficulty for want of electricity. The Drugs Controller recommended that the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Units might be considered as Priority Sector and the imposition of power cut might be relaxed by allowing them at least 50 per cent of their normal consumption prior to the imposition of the power cut. He also recommended that the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board might be moved to relax the imposition of power cut in respect of the Oxygen manufacturing units. The Drugs Controller endorsed the request of the Tamil Nadu Chemists and Druggists Association to relax the power cut in favour of those who had got separate connections for refrigerators for running them all the twenty-four hours for keeping the life saving drugs in continuous cold storage in order to retain their potency.

The Government (in Public Works Department) have considered the several representations and have taken appropriate action on them. They have since arranged for the supply of adequate power to the Indian Oxygen Limited and the Asiatic Oxygen Limited, to enable them to meet the Oxygen requirements of the various hospitals in the State. Similarly they have reduced the power cut in respect of Messrs Tablets Limited, Manufactu-

rers of Drugs, Thondiarpet, Madras from 75 per cent to 40 per cent. The requests of the Government Medical Stores Department, Madras and "The Pharmaceutical Chemical and Allied Manufacturers Association of South India" for reducing the cut on pharmaceutical industries are under the consideration of the Government and orders will be issued shortly on their merits.

THIRU G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, I understand that the electricity cut in respect of one of the pharmaceutical factories has been reduced from 75 per cent to 40 per cent. In the same way, the cut should also be reduced in respect of the other pharmaceutical factories in the State, because they are also manufacturing medicines for being supplied to the hospitals and the public, and a similar advantage may be given to them also. பி.ப 4-40

THE HON. THIRU K. ANBAZHAGAN: Sir, as far as my knowledge goes, even this decision may have to be reversed, because of the present difficult position in obtaining electricity. The application has been received a little earlier and a lenient view has been taken. But, it is yet under consideration whether it is possible to continue that.

THIRU G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, it is not the interests of the pharmaceutical factory that I am talking about, but it is about the interests of the sick public. Most of the hospitals have to be supplied with medicines on contract basis and if the medicines do not go there, they will not be able to give to the people both in-patients and out-patients and the public will suffer. Only because of that, I am saying this. If the cut is not reduced before the end of this month or before the 15th of next month, the condition will become worse, because the factories always have a stock of medicines that will last for two months and the stock is fast coming to 'nil'. The public will be put to great difficulty, if the cut is not reduced before the 15th of next month.

THE HON. THIRU K. ANBAZHAGAN: Sir, the department will take all precautionary measures to see that the production of drugs is maintained; but, anyhow, electricity is a difficult problem at present and we are stressing the need upon the department,